

INFORMATION FROM MARK CROSS RE LOCAL PLAN. (27-04-2011)

- The Local Plan contains the Council's planning policies, and land that is zoned for development.
- The Local Plan is often referred to as 'the planning bible', in that all decisions on planning applications are to be made in accordance with the Plan, unless there are material considerations for doing otherwise.
- So if there is concern about planning decisions then these can be addressed through changes to the plan (amend or new policies, changes to land zonings).
- The Council has to review its Plan every 5 years,
- we are just at the outset.
- We are asking community groups to let us know of any planning matters that are giving concern/regularly being raised in the community, and they would be looked at in the Review (e.g., wind turbines, houses in countryside, housing land, retailing.....)

There is a prescribed process to follow

- **Information gathering/monitoring** to identify main issues that might necessitate changes to current Plan (this is where we are at present, and inviting contributions at outset)
- **Main Issue Report:** a document that lists the main issues, looks at possible options for addressing these; considers development strategies for towns and villages; and range of sites that might be available for development. This will be subject to widespread public consultation with exhibitions/drop in days. It is NOT a draft plan, but is very much meant to put forward alternatives and to invite comment on preferred way forward. This is now to be published Jan 2012 (RAF situation affects knowing what to plan for)
- **Proposed Plan:** after considering all the feedback from the 'main issues' stage, the Council; then proceeds to produce its Proposed Plan, which by now is a settled view of what its final, adopted Plan will be. This is scheduled for January 2013, and there will be again widespread consultation and engagement.
- **Examination:** Any unresolved objections to the Proposed Plan then go forward to an examination (public enquiry) to be considered by a Reporter appointed by the Scottish Ministers. The findings of the Reporter are largely binding upon the Council. This has been scheduled for late 2013.
- **Adoption:** Any amendments decided by the Reporter are then made to the Plan and it is then 'adopted' by the Council, anticipated early 2014.